THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (d) This being a state subject, the requisite information is being collected from the Government of Haryana and Government of Uttar Pradesh and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha on receipt.

Opening of second channel for Doordarshan

753. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the programmes decided in the matter of opening the second channel of different stations of the Doordarshan;

(b) what will be the specialities of the second channel;

(c) whether several State Governments have demanded handing over the second channel to the State Governments; and

(d) whether Government have agreed to it; if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI AJIT PANJA):(a) and (b) The setting up of second channel in metropolitan cities of Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras has been decided with a view to meeting the multi-lingual requirements of cosmopolitan character of the population in these areas.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The operation and maintenance of broadcasting network in the country is a responsibility assigned under the Constitution to the Central Government The Government is firmly of the view that the provision was so incorporated by the framers of the Constitution in their wisdom.

Development of towns in Andhra Pradesh

754. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering any proposal to develop Visakhapatnam, Kakinada, Guntur, Rajahmundry, Machilipatnam, Chirala, Bapatla, Eluru, Ongole, Nellore, Tirupathi, Nalgonda, Nizamabad in Andhra Pradesh under various Central Government schemes;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (c) Under the Centrally sponsored scheme of Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns Scheme, 26 towns including Ongole, Nalgonda and Tirupathi have been approved and central assistance to the tune of Rs. 72 lakhs have been released till date for these three towns

Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Urban Basic Services an amount of Rs 5.60 lakhs have been released to this State covering 16 towns including Nalgonda. Besides, there are proposals to obtain World Bank/ODA assistance for 19 towns including Visakapatnam, Eluru, Nellore and Tirupati

Financial assistance to Cheliyala project

755. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the World Bank has given financial assistance to CHELIYALA Project in Tiryani Mandalam in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details of the financial assistance provided by the World Bank?